## BHEW Bulletin

## August 2012

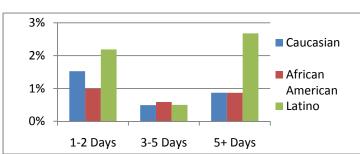
## Youth Synthetic Drug Use in Missouri...



Synthetic drug use has become an issue of concern across the US.<sup>1</sup>

- According to the 2012 Missouri Student Survey, 6.4% of youth in grades 6-12 have tried synthetic drugs at least once in their life.<sup>2</sup>
- Those youth who reported trying at least one other drug (excluding tobacco) were much more likely to report using synthetic drugs. Only .06% of all youth reported synthetic drugs as the only one they have ever tried while 13.7% of those reporting other drug use also reported using synthetic drugs.<sup>2</sup>
- 2.9% of all youth report using synthetic drugs at least once in the past month. 1.4% have used them 3+ times in the last month and over 300 youth report using them on a daily basis.<sup>2</sup>
- As commonly seen with other drugs, as the age of the youth increases, so does the likelihood that they will have used synthetic drugs in the last month. By 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 3.5% of youth report having used in the last month; this compares to 1.5% of 6<sup>th</sup> graders.<sup>2</sup>
- Males are slightly more likely to have used synthetic drugs in the last month than females (3.1% vs. 2.6%)<sup>2</sup>
- There was a differences between the races in the amount used with Latinos at the highest risk of having used synthetic drugs in

the last month and using the most days: 2



For more information please contact the BHEW at 314-877-5942 or susan.depue@ mimh.edu

Behavioral Health



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/ondcp-fact-sheets/synthetic-drugs-k2-spice-bath-salts

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Missouri Student Survey, 2012 data